

**MINUTES OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REVENUE  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room W215 Senate Office Building, State Capitol Complex

January 27, 2010

**Members Present:** Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Co-Chairman  
Rep. Sheryl Allen, Co-Chairman  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Rep. Jackie Biskupski  
Rep. Julie Fisher  
Rep. Chris Herrod  
Rep. Christine Johnson  
Rep. Todd Kiser

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Dr. Andrea Wilko, Chief Economist  
Dr. Thomas Young, Economist  
Becky Lawyer, Committee Secretary

**Note:** A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Allen called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

Dr. Andrea Wilko explained the Budget Briefs and Schedule of Fees provided for the meeting.

**Division of Housing and Community Development**

Gordon Walker, Director of the Division of Housing and Community Development addressed the committee. The following Housing and Community Development staff were introduced as each of their programs was discussed.

Mike Johnson, Program Director, Weatherization Assistance Program  
Mike Glenn, Program Director, Housing  
Jonathan Hardy, Program Director, Community Services  
Shelli Goble, Deputy Program Director, OWHLF  
Keith Heaton, Program Director, Community Development Block Grant Program  
Sherm Roquiere, Program Director, State Energy Assistance and Lifeline Programs  
Kimberly Schmeling, Director of Budget  
Roxanne Graham, Program Manager, Private Activity Bond Authority

Shar Lewis, Commission on Volunteers

Weatherization - Mike Johnson

The Weatherization program helps those with lower incomes and the elderly make their homes more energy-efficient and manage their energy bills. Utah's program is a model other states are using. The program is poised to receive possible future stimulus money. Questions from the committee were discussed.

Community Services - Jonathan Hardy

January 27, 2010 is the point-in-time count of homeless people for this year. The count is taken every other year. A handout was distributed which shows the changes in the homeless population from year to year. The current count is down 29% from 2005. The greatest weakness in the program is in Case Management. Each time a homeless person is housed, \$18,000 is saved out of funds for homeless programs. The chronically homeless use a much higher percentage of resources than the temporarily homeless. Questions from the committee were discussed.

Housing - Mike Glenn

\$5 million in homeless funds were received from ARRA HPRP, and \$2.1 million from TANF. Many of these funds go into Energy Star. The Housing Program created 781 units, for a total of 1,148 jobs statewide. This fund targets very low income people. All of the funds go into EnergyStar units. Questions from the committee were discussed.

Community Development Block Grant Program - Keith Heaton

This federally funded 29-yr-old program handles cities with populations less than 20,000 and counties with populations less than 200,000. They work with the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and have been very successful with ARRA funding received and have used 95% of that funding. Questions from the committee were discussed.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to approve minutes from the January 12 and 20th meetings. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Biskupski and Rep. Kiser absent for the vote.

Rep. Allen announced that Jerry Stevenson is now a member of this committee.

State Energy Assistance and Lifeline (SEAL) - Sherm Roquero

This is a federal program with almost \$36 million available this past year. The program was able to serve 42,453 of the 44,000 families that applied. Comments from customers who have been helped with the various programs in this division were read. Questions from the committee were discussed.

Permanent Community Impact Board - Keith Burnett

This board provides grants or loans to rural counties, cities and special districts. The loan

portfolio has about \$345 million that has been lent out. Sen. Okerlund was thanked for his strong leadership in this area. The income coming back is significantly greater than the total income from revenues from years in the past. In 2009, new revenues of \$82 million were approved and \$128 million in new projects was approved. In the past five years, the new revenues were almost \$342 million and projects in the amount of \$491 million were approved. It is estimated that in this past year there were over 6,000 jobs in rural Utah were created.

**Private Activity Bond Authority - Roxanne Graham**

Through the IRS legislation, the state receives \$273 million in tax-free bonding authority. 42% of this goes to Utah housing for single-family housing. 33% goes to student loans. Funds also come in for multi-family housing. These funds have also been available for manufacturing facilities such as Rocky Mountain Pies, Action Target, YESCO, International Paperbox, SSS Steel, Lauer Foods. There are three new types of bonds. \$96 million was received from the HERA act in 2008.

**Utah Commission on Volunteers - Shar Lewis**

Utah is ranked #1 in the nation for volunteerism and has been for the past 6 years. An average of 888,000 Utahns volunteer, giving 162 million hours of service. That's the equivalent to \$3.3 billion in value of money. This is the second weak area in the HCD budget. \$100,000 in matching funds is needed to receive additional federal funds.

**Utah Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives - Katherine Smith**

This program has no budget or personnel. There is an electronic newsletter available which is free help for non-profits. Help for accessing funds, grants, support and training.

Kimberly Schmeling, Shad West, press representative, and Pamela Atkinson were introduced. Questions from the committee were discussed.

The WebGrants Program was also discussed. Checks can be cut in one week. Applications can be tracked and monitored continually. Questions from the committee were discussed.

Rep. Allen reminded the committee of the meeting the following day to be held at the Rio Grande Depot.

**Zoos**

Craig Dinsmore, Executive Director, Hogle Zoo, introduced Jim Hogle, President, Utah Zoological Society Board of Directors. Appreciation was expressed to the committee for helping the zoo improve its programs. The zoo is one of only 221 zoos which are nationally accredited. Record attendance of 1,000,000 guests was achieved for the first time. Membership also grew to a record number of more than 20,000 households. The zoo is one of the top five most visited attractions in Utah, including National Parks. Nearly 50,000 people were admitted admission-

free. Support from state funds keeps the zoo affordable and accessible to everyone. The zoo's legislative appropriation is use exclusively for critical operational costs such as animal care, feeding supplies and zookeeper wages. A few years ago, public funds accounted for nearly 45% of the zoo's operating budget. Now that percentage is down to about 25%. Some of that change is due to cuts in appropriations, but the zoo has met that challenge. Expenses continue to be controlled and new sources of revenue are sought. 700 animals are cared for everyday, including holidays. Questions from the committee were discussed.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn.

Rep. Allen adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

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Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Co-Chair

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Rep. Sheryl L. Allen, Co-Chair